

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 BIB-01 SSO-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 /088 W

-----181358Z 122550 /43

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0000

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY

USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 2318

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

UNCLAS LAGOS 4261

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UK, CG, MO, AO, NI

SUBJECT: GARBA MEETS WITH NEWSMEN

1. NIGERIAN EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSIONER JOSEPH GARBA RETURNED TO LAGOS YESTERDAY MORNING, APRIL 17, AND MET WITH PRESS ON ARRIVAL AT AIRPORT. HE COMMENTED ON MOROCCAN DECISION TO SEND TROOPS TO ZAIRE AND BBC'S DOCUMENTARY FILM ON OJUKWU, GOWON AND THE NIGERIAN CIVIL WAR.

2. ASKED ABOUT MOROCCAN DECISION TO SEND TROOPS TO ZAIRE, GARBA QUOTED AS SAYING THAT NIGERIA IS NOT IN A POSITION TO PASS JUDGEMENT "OVER THE ACTION OF ZAIRE WHICH INVITED OTHER NATIONS INCLUDING MOROCCO TO MAINTAIN HER TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY.... I BELIEVE IT  
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IS THE PREROGATIVE OF ANY INDEPENDENT COUNTRY TO SEEK TO MAINTAIN ITS TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY." COMMISSIONER REPORTEDLY TOLD NEWSMEN THAT SEVERAL AFRICAN COUNTRIES HAD SIGNED MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATIES WITH "ONE ANOTHER AND OUTSIDE AFRICA," AND ADDED THAT IF MOROCCAN ACTION WAS TAKEN WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF SUCH AN AGREEMENT "THERE IS NOT MUCH WE CAN DO OR SAY ABOUT IT."

3. WITH REFERENCE TO THE NIGERIAN ROLE IN ZAIRE, GARBA IS REPORTED BY PRESS AND TV TO HAVE REAFFIRMED NIGERIAN READINESS TO HELP "ARRIVE" AT A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE PRESENT TROUBLES.

4. ON THE BBC PROGRAM, GARBA SAID THE FMG "HAD CONDEMNED" THE CORPORATION'S RECENT DOCUMENTARY FILM ON OJUKWU, GOWON AND THE NIGERIAN CIVIL WAR (LAGOS 4096 NOTAL). THE COMMISSIONER ADDED THAT THE FMG IS SERIOUSLY CONCERNED OVER BBC "PROPAGANDA" AND HAD DECIDED TO TAKE THE MATTER UP WITH THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT.  
EASUM

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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